

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 566

2 INTRODUCED BY G. HOLLENBAUGH

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE CARE, EDUCATION, AND SAFETY
5 OF MONTANA'S CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL; CREATING THE AFTERSCHOOL CAPACITY ACT;
6 PROVIDING FOR GRANTS TO ENTITIES PROVIDING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR THE
7 ADMINISTRATION AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS; AND
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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10 WHEREAS, one in four Montana children in working families has no adult supervision when the child
11 comes home from school; and

12 WHEREAS, there were no daily afterschool programs available for 82% of Montana elementary students
13 from working families during the 2005-2006 school year, thus demonstrating a significant need for communities
14 to provide safe and drug-free environments with caring adults during the critical afterschool hours; and

15 WHEREAS, children in afterschool programs demonstrate higher academic achievement, are less likely
16 to display behavior problems, are less likely to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, and are less likely to commit a
17 crime or participate in other high-risk behavior; and

18 WHEREAS, children and youth are three times more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, be in or
19 cause a car crash, and engage in sexual activity between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. and more alcohol-related car crashes
20 occurred in Montana between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. than at any other hours of the day; and

21 WHEREAS, regular attendees at the Montana 21st Century Community Learning Centers show a 53%
22 improvement in reading scores and a 52% improvement in math scores, and teachers reported significant
23 improvement in behavior such as turning homework in on time, class participation, motivation to learn, and getting
24 along well with other students; and

25 WHEREAS, the Montana Afterschool Network is a statewide coalition working together to increase the
26 availability and quality of afterschool opportunities whose partners include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana,
27 the Montana Board of Crime Control, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Early
28 Childhood Services Bureau, Girl Scouts of the Big Sky Council, Junior Achievement of Southwest Montana,
29 MEA-MFT, the Montana Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, the Montana Child Care Resource and Referral
30 Network, the Montana Council, Boy Scouts of America, the Montana Office of Public Instruction's 21st Century

1 Community Learning Centers, the Montana Parent Teacher Association, the Montana Recreation and Parks
2 Association, the Montana School Boards Association, the Montana Small School Alliance, the Montana 4-H
3 Center for Youth Development, Montana State University's Early Childhood Project, School Administrators of
4 Montana, and the Flagship Program of the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Montana.

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6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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8 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title -- definitions.** (1) [Sections 1 through 7] may be cited as the
9 "Afterschool Capacity Act".

10 (2) As used in [sections 1 through 7], the following definitions apply:

11 (a) "Afterschool program" means a school or community-based program that serves school-aged children
12 outside of the regular school day.

13 (b) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

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15 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Afterschool program grants.** (1) The department shall administer the
16 funds available for afterschool programs. The department shall use the funds to provide competitive grants to
17 applicants. Applicants may include public schools, community organizations, and units of local government. Grant
18 funds must be used to support new and existing afterschool programs. Grant funds may be used to leverage
19 federal funds.

20 (2) An afterschool program must consist of a partnership between at least one school and at least one
21 community organization. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other community partners, including but
22 not limited to the following public and nonprofit agencies and organizations:

23 (a) child care providers;

24 (b) counties and other units of local government;

25 (c) faith-based organizations;

26 (d) businesses;

27 (e) educational entities, such as vocational education programs, school-to-work programs, community
28 colleges, and universities;

29 (f) recreational programs;

30 (g) cultural programs; and

1 (h) other community service entities.

2 (3) In awarding grants, priority must be given to programs seeking funds for quality enhancement,
3 prevention programming, or increased capacity to serve additional kindergarten students.

4 (4) In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants are required to demonstrate the ability to provide a 25%
5 cash or in-kind match for grant funds received.

6 (5) The department may adopt rules to prescribe application forms and procedures and to implement
7 the grant program.

8 (6) The department may contract for the administration of the afterschool program.

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10 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Needs assessment.** The department shall conduct a needs assessment
11 to identify communities with the greatest need for new or expanded afterschool programs.

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13 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Evaluation.** Afterschool program participants may assist the department
14 and the office of public instruction in drafting an evaluation instrument and developing a process for assessing
15 the effectiveness of afterschool programs. In addition to academic achievement, evaluations must track changes
16 in risk and protective factors through the Montana youth risk behavior survey conducted by the office of public
17 instruction, the Montana prevention needs assessment survey conducted by the department, and school
18 discipline reports. Afterschool program evaluations may be incorporated into the office of public instruction's
19 existing data collection system.

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21 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Resource reviews.** Afterschool program participants shall study the
22 resources available in Montana to providers of afterschool programs and make recommendations for better
23 coordination and increased efficiency of state resources.

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25 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Quality standards.** Afterschool program participants shall identify
26 voluntary quality standards. Afterschool programs must be designed to enhance academic achievement and
27 positive youth development. To achieve these goals, programs shall strive toward meeting standards of a
28 high-quality afterschool program. Identifying these standards ensures that children and youth participating in
29 afterschool programs are receiving the highest-quality care and an effective education.

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1 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Technical assistance.** The afterschool program participants may provide
2 technical assistance to other afterschool programs in addition to providing training for afterschool staff in the
3 areas of youth development and behavioral problem prevention. Technical assistance must include the
4 dissemination of resources that aid in starting and sustaining quality afterschool programs, such as best practices
5 in program management and implementation.

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Appropriations -- administrative costs.** (1) There is appropriated from
8 the state general fund to the department of public health and human services \$525,000 in fiscal year 2008 and
9 \$525,000 in fiscal year 2009 for the afterschool program.

10 (2) The department may use up to 10% of the appropriation for fiscal year 2008 to administer the
11 afterschool program or contract for the administration of the program and to conduct the needs assessment under
12 [section 3].

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14 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 7] are intended to be codified
15 as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 4, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 4, apply to [sections 1 through 7].

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17 **NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

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